

*The*  
October  
2007

# EMA Report

NEWSLETTER FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

VOLUME I, NUMBER 12

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), **Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security (FCEM&HS)**, and its audience of state, county and local officials and volunteer agencies paused to remember America's patriots who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 during Ohio's National Patriots' Day observance ceremony at the Vern Riffe Center Capitol Theater.

More than 35 partner organizations hosted exhibits that highlighted their disaster preparedness planning.

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Director Gary L. Holland prepares to comment at the Vern Riffe Center Capitol Theater, 11 September as part the County's National Preparedness Month kickoff. Special guests included Mayor Michael Coleman; Franklin County Board of Commissioners Mary Jo Kilroy and Marilyn Brown; Sheriff Jim Karnes, Franklin County Sheriff's Office; Director Henry Guzmán, Ohio Department of Public Safety and Director Mitchell Brown, Columbus Department of Public Safety.

### *Good Weather, Good Partners Sped Up Repair Time*

## 98 Percent of Outdoor Warning Sirens Back In Service

Many of these Whelen speaker drivers failed under stress during the August 25 tornado activation. Approximately 320 have been replaced, along with other parts, as contractors and other staff brought the siren system back up to strength.



After full diagnostic and physical inspections of the 146 outdoor warning sirens Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) initiated several priority measures which brought the system back to optimum performance, determined the incident cause and incorporated preventive measures.

Historically, the system operates consistently at a 98-100 percent reliability rate.

Of the area's 146 sirens, **143** are in service. As of 1 October, **127** sirens are fully operational. **Sixteen** sirens are partially operational. **Three** sirens are out of service – one unit awaits a major replacement part and was not in service before the tornado activation. For a list of units not working, visit our web site at [www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs).

"In this trying time for the agency," Director Gary L. Holland said, "our total focus has always been the public's safety and to restoring integrity to a complicated mechanical system that was pushed beyond its capacity. With additional help from our government and private partners, we were able to get through this critical situation as fast as possible."

Director Holland sent a letter of explanation to the 41 jurisdictions throughout the County.

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Mayor Lynn Ochsendorf

**L**ynn Ochsendorf is Mayor of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, the host city to the Defense Supply Center Columbus and its 6,160 employees who received the Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence in 2004 and in 2007.

*She has been an employee of the City Attorney's Office and previously elected as City Treasurer and Council President.*

*Mayor Ochsendorf serves on the Whitehall City School District's Continuous Improvement Plan committee working to oversee that the youth in the community are receiving the best available public school education in a manner consistent with the directives of the State Board of Education and Vice Chair of the Whitehall Education Foundation which further supports student opportunity.*

*With the Ohio First Suburbs Consortium, she lobbies other state and federally elected officials for a fair share of dollars to maintain the infrastructure of older, landlocked communities. She is one of the original board members of The Pride of Whitehall, a not for profit organization. Mayor Ochsendorf serves as a committee member, raising dollars to help qualified low income families repair and maintain their homes.*

*Through her service as a Board Member of the Mount Carmel Hospital Mission and Vision Board, Mayor Ochsendorf works to bring access and quality health care to all residents of the City and surrounding areas.*

***"As an agent of Homeland Security through the Franklin County Emergency Management agency, it is my charge to make certain that Franklin County is ready for any disaster that may befall us," she said.***

*Mayor Ochsendorf graduated from Ohio State University having received her B. A., cum laude in 1981. Assistant Fire Chief Preston Moore serves as alternate.*

**FCEM&HS Office is closed Monday October 8, 2007 in observance of Columbus Day.  
Normal office hours will resume Tuesday, October 9, 2007.**

### Upcoming CERT Class

A twenty-hour Community Emergency Response Team class begins October 9 - 30, 6 - 8:45PM. Please register before 4 October. Class is held at the Ohio Fire Academy, 8895 East Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068. For further information call 614 448-1481 or visit [www.fccert.org](http://www.fccert.org).

### Upcoming Meetings

October 3	10AM	Homeland Security Advisory Committee	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
October 4	1:30PM	800 MHz Safety Committee	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
October 9	9AM	Franklin County Fire Chiefs Association	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
October 9	1:30PM	800 MHz Service Committee	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
October 10	1:30PM	800 MHz Advisory Committee	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
October 17	9AM	Executive Committee Special Meeting	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.

### Upcoming Training

October 4 — Toxicology for HazMat Teams, Electrical Trade Center, 947 West Goodale, Grandview Heights, 9-11:30AM  
 October 17 — Northwest Area Strike Team, Washington Township, 6PM  
 October 23-24 — ICS 300 Training, 5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd., 8AM - 4PM  
 October 25 — Northwest Area Strike Team, Westerville, 6PM  
 October 25-26 — ICS 400 Training, 5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd., 8AM- 4PM  
 November 9 — Executive Committee Orientation, 5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd., 1-3PM

**Gary L. Holland, Director**

**Jim Leonard, Deputy Director**

**Jan Bartel, Finance**

**Art Baker, Manager, Warning/EOC**

**Jamie Stout, Planning**

**Pam Tickle, Grants/Training**

**Susan Johnson, Administrative Assistant**

**Robert Crockett, Public Information/Community Education/Outreach**

[www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs)





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He appeared at the general session of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners on September 11 to request emergency appropriations of \$150,000 needed to acquire speaker drivers, batteries, an automated controller and other requisite equipment. An additional order of \$12,000 was already under consideration.

The agency contacted Whelen, the manufacturer, to determine if any parts were defective and asked the company to expedite shipments of replacement parts.

FCEM&HS also met with Columbus Division of Fire officials and reviewed current policy and procedures. Upon notification from the National Weather Service or FCEM&HS, the Columbus Fire Alarm Office (FAO) activates the sirens.

The policy, which has since be revised, did not specify a five minute interval between reactivation (usually 3 minute alerts / 3 minute cool down). While the continuous activation of the sirens may have been the technical cause, there is no fault assigned to the FAO or its personnel.

The agency ordered an automated control panel to bring the Westerville Fire Department equipment in line with that of the FAO and FCEM&HS, both of which have, as part of a fail-safe method, the capacity to activate the alarms.

Outdoor warning systems are just **one means** of alerting the public to severe weather.

All residents are encouraged to monitor local radio and television stations when storm weather is likely and to have weather alert radios in their homes and places of business.

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## Preparedness Ceremony Honored Those Who Perished on 9-11

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September was National Preparedness Month. ODPS led a state-wide campaign with a diverse group of national, state and local partners to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and to promote community involvement through a wide variety of events and activities.

***"There is no greater reminder than that of September 11 that disaster can strike when we least expect it. And the tragedy that surrounds it can be devastating," said ODPS Director Henry Guzmán.***

***"The past weeks in Ohio have proven that we can save lives by being prepared. The preparedness efforts, cooperation and response I have seen in reaction to the flooding in northwest Ohio have been nothing short of heroic. This is the type of response that keeps a disaster from turning into a tragedy," he added.***



Director Guzmán and Gary Holland, Director, FCEM&HS hosted Tuesday's event at the downtown Vern Riffe Center. They were joined by Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman, Franklin County Board of Commissioners President Mary Jo Kilroy and Commissioner Marilyn Brown among other honored guests.

To pay tribute to all who died during the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, the Ohio Citizen Corps organized volunteers to place 2,999 flags on the Statehouse lawn.

The flags were arranged to represent the two World Trade Center towers; an open, five-sided space represented the Pentagon; the space between the buildings represented the open field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

ODPS encourages Ohioans to visit its new Web site: [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov).

It includes information on emergency preparedness for schools, businesses, older citizens, people with disabilities, severe weather preparedness information and multicultural needs.

*Courtesy Ohio Department of Public Safety*

Sound the alarm! During **Fire Prevention Week**, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is asking kids and families all across North America to practice their home fire escape plans. With your help, we hope to have the world's biggest fire drill. Let's get started!

"Practice Your Escape Plan!" is the theme of Fire Prevention Week 2007. It's not enough to have a home fire escape plan. To escape safely, you've got to make sure that everyone in the home has practiced the plan.

According to an NFPA poll, the majority of Americans have a fire escape plan, but most haven't practiced it.

From **October 7-13**, fire safety advocates will be spreading the word that when it comes to escape plans, practice is key. Let's get started!





## THE NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL CENTER FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE AND SECURITY'S 2007 ESSAY COMPETITION

### First place winner will receive:

1. \$1500 cash award
2. A trip to the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security in Monterey, CA where they will be recognized.

### Five Top Finalists:

The winner and the four top finalists will have their essays published in a special edition of *Homeland Security Affairs*, the official publication of the NPS Center for Homeland Defense and Security ([www.hsaj.org](http://www.hsaj.org)).

**The winner and finalists will be notified no later than April 15, 2008.**

**To enter visit:**

**[www.chds.us](http://www.chds.us)**

The Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security is pleased to announce its First Annual Essay Competition. This competition strives to stimulate original thought on issues in Homeland Defense and Security.

### This year's essay question is:

*"What single aspect of Homeland Security has been most successful, and what single aspect will be most critical to Homeland Security success?"*

### Eligibility:

The competition is open to all who are interested in the field of homeland security. Individuals associated with CHDS are not eligible.

### Submission Guidelines:

1. Your response may be general, or focus on a specific aspect (organizational, policy, strategy, practice, technological innovation, social impact, etc.) or discipline/field (such as emergency management, public health, law enforcement, critical infrastructure, or intelligence).

2. Essays should be no more than five pages, single-spaced and twelve-point type and in Word or PDF format. Entries must be submitted via the [www.chds.us](http://www.chds.us) website. **Deadline for submission: January 2, 2008.** CHDS reserves the right to publish all contest entries.

*The Nation's Homeland Security Educator*